

Unanswered questions at the Open Info Day 1/10

Q: Is it possible for UK institution to be an Action chair?

A: Yes

Q: Can a person act as a proposer or be a participant in an Action if he/she is without affiliation at the moment but has had one, e.g. is at the moment waiting for a novel job at a new institution, or is in pension now, etc.?

A: An affiliation is any form of recognised relationship between the individual and a legal entity.

Examples of affiliation may be (non-exhaustive list):

- A work contract;
- Enrolment in a research performing study programme (for example PhD or Post-Doctoral programme);
- Voluntary service in a NGO;
- Emeritus professorship.

In case of doubt where the Action cannot help, the applicant should contact the Science or Administrative Officer in charge of the COST Action (as displayed on COST Action page on COST website) for further guidance.

Q: what does partner member mean for South Africa? Can participants from SA be reimbursed?

A: Yes, but by their own national fund

Q: What is the de facto difference between the primary and secondary proposers?

A: The Main Proposer is the person who creates and submits the proposal in the name of the network of proposers (composed of the Main Proposer and all Secondary Proposers invited to join the proposal). The Main Proposer is the only contact point with COST during the evaluation process and most of the time, if the proposal is successful, the Main Proposer becomes Chair of the Action.

Q: With respect to the geographical balance, there are some strict rules. For example, of a cost action with 14 members, 7 should be from inclusive target countries (ITC). What is considered as a member? A person, an organization or a country? For example, two scholars from the university of warsaw, are they considered as one ITC member or as two ITC members? Another example, two scholars from two different universities in Poland: considered as 1 ITC members or as 2 ITC members?

A: In the ratio of min 50% ITC. Proposers (Main or secondary) account for one per country. If you have two scholars from the same or different Universities in Poland, it still accounts for 1 ITC. So the participation criteria (min 7 COST members among them min 50% ITC) is based on countries represented independently from the number of participants (secondary proposers).

Q: Where can we find information about proposers?

A: This information is not public. COST has a here confidentiality obligation.

Q: Hello! Why Greece is moved to the ITC group?

We follow the widening countries classification of the Commission where Greece will be part of the ITC under HEurope (and Luxembourg will be removed)

Q: Is the travel support limited to travels within Europe?

A: No, it is possible to be supported for travels outside Europe, with a few exceptions, e.g. Meetings cannot be organised in International Partner Countries. Please check the [Vademecum](#) (until end October) and then the new Annotated Rules that will be published on 1/11

Q: Is it possible to extension of duration time of available COST action owing to pandemic condition?

A: Yes, currently some extensions have been granted due to pandemic.

Q: Hello, I have a question regarding the funded activities. Would the development of a tool with the aim to enhance collaboration between partners be eligible for funding? Thank you, Eva

A: Not sure which tool you have in mind, but this seems like communication activities Please check the [Vademecum](#) (until end October) and then the new Annotated Rules that will be published on 1/11)

Q: With respect to anonymity: even a reference in the text is impossible? Eg. Previous research (proposer's name, year) has shown... = not allowed?

A: Yes, references are admissible (see [SESA guidelines](#), page 12 and 18)

Q: Is it required to be involved in a COST action in order to submit a COST prpoosal?

A: No, but it can be a good preparation for a future submission

Q: Can you please repeat what should we submit in the "COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy & Specific Objectives"?

A: How are you going to tackle, what measures/plans will you put in place regarding:

1. Involvement of participants from Inclusiveness Target Countries 2. Involvement of Early Career Investigators (ECI) 3. Gender balance

Q: How can we get information about planning the budget of the actions?

A: Please check the [Vademecum](#) (until end October) and then the new Annotated Rules that will be published on 1/11

Q: Are round tables related to the topic of the action organized in schools considered as dissemination activities? Can they be reimbursed?

A: Looks more like workshops, they can be reimbursed

Q: Is there a way to search the active COST actions by university?

A: No there is no such search feature

Q: Could you please give some aspects to be taken into account for non COST countries in participating in an action?

A: The most important is their potential scientific contribution. Participants affiliated to institutions in non-COST countries will be able to apply to Working Groups as from 1/11

Q: As far as I understand, we can either apply for a new COST action, or join a current action. What is the difference in terms of access to budget?

A: Joining is much easier, and allows you to become familiar with the functioning of an Action. The reimbursement will depend on your involvement in approved Action activities (approved by the Management Committee). If you submit a successful application, your institution would normally become the Grant Holder (and would then be entitled to an administrative support of up to 15% of the Grant) Please check the [Vademecum](#) (until end October) and then the new Annotated Rules that will be published on 1/11

Q: Will Switzerland be part of COST?

A: Yes, Switzerland is currently a Full member of COST

Q: Application to WG? Could it be rejected? when should I know the decision?

A: You have probably applied to one of the new Action. In this case many of these Actions have not had their first Management Meeting yet. It will be reviewed by the Management Committee after that date.

Q: Do the NNC and the IPC count on the minimum of 7 countries, or should they be added as "extras"?

A: No, they are not included in the calculation

Q: Do training schools or other types of meeting have to be completely new or are they also eligible for funding as activities of the network if they have already been in place before, but still contribute to the Action?

A: Fine, as long as they contribute to capacity-building objectives and are approved by the Management Committee of the Action

Q: Chinese Institution with Head Quarter in China: how are policies to participate in COST action?

A: participant can join on an individual basis by applying to a Working Group of the related Action

Q: will WG members be put on the Action Website cost.eu as well?

A: yes